Government with foreign countries for the execution/ maintenance of railway projects in the country during the last two years and the current year so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Mineral Wealth

359. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether mineral wealth of the country is decreasing constantly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to encourage exploration of mineral wealth in the country;

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Minerals are non-renewable resources of the country. Depletion is proportionate to the quantum exploited only.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geological Survey of India is one of the major organisation entirely dedicated to the exploration activities in the country. Annually about 170 mineral investigation projects are being taken up throughout the country. During 8th Five Year Plan Geological Survey of India has succeeded in augmenting the resources of various important mineral commodities. The Geological Survey of India has given main thrust during the 9th Five Year Plan for mineral exploration with special emphasis on deficient commodities of high value like Gold, Diamond, etc. as well as on ores & minerals of high demand like base metals, Tin, Tungsten, Molybdenum, etc.

Exploration is also carried out by Directorate of Mining & Geology in the respective States. Further, Guidelines for prospecting of minerals in larger areas through private sectors have also been issued recently.

[English]

Re-construction of Hotels by ITDC

360. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation propose to re-construct certain hotels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some foreign firms have been invited to join the joint ventures for designing and construction of these hotels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the terms proposed for the said joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. ITDC envisages to undertake schemes for renovation of its Lodhi, Janpath and Ranjit Hotels in phased manner during the 9th Five Year Plan period (1997—2002).

(c) to (e). Presently, no joint venture is proposed for these schemes with any foreign firm.

Unauthorised Hutments and Construction around the Railway Track

361 SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the efficiency of the Central Railway is adversely affected by the unauthorised hutments and other construction around the railway track;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove these obstacles;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has proposed to the Union Government to allot their vacant land in Mumbai to hutments dwellers so that the present hutments can be removed; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action against the unauthorised occupants of Railway land is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mega Projects for Promotion of Resort Tourism

362. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to set up a number of Mega projects with special focus on Resort Tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of concept location financial implications, implementation schedule impact etc. project-wise;

(c) the follow up action taken/proposed to be taken both at the Apex level and State Government's level;

(d) the details of other innovative projects proposed to attract foreign tourist and encourage domestic tourism;